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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/775,328	02/11/2004	Kiyoshi Kato	0756-7254	8545

31780 7590 02/15/2006

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EXAMINER

FULK, STEVEN J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2891

DATE MAILED: 02/15/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/775,328

Applicant(s)

KATO ET AL.

PM

Examiner

Steven J. Fulk

Art Unit

2891

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 December 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 11 February 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/29/05; 1/23/06</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ovshinsky et al. '471 in view of Mueller '625. The process limitations of detaching and stacking the semiconductor elements found in product claims 5-8 invoke the product-by-process doctrine. Product-by-process claims are not limited to the manipulations of the recited steps, only the structure implied by the steps (*MPEP* § 2113). For example, anticipation of claim 5 does not require that the semiconductor elements be stacked by transferring an element formed over a different substrate.

a. Regarding claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 16-19, Ovshinsky et al. discloses a semiconductor device (fig. 6A; col. 18, lines 58-66) comprising stacked thin film semiconductor circuits each having a thin film transistor (DIFETs 232, 234), with an adhesive film (leveling film, 220) and an insulating film (236) formed between semiconductor circuits. The reference discloses a light emitting element and a light receiving element electrically connected in the stack of semiconductor elements (col. 6, lines 24-29); a first electric signal from the respective thin film transistor inputted into the light emitting

element and converted into an optical signal; and the optical signal converted into a second electric signal in the light receiving element and inputted into the respective thin film transistor (col. 6, lines 5-23).

Ovshinsky et al. does not explicitly teach the leveling film that holds together the stacked semiconductor circuits to comprise a resin. Mueller teaches a stacked optoelectronic coupling element wherein a resin (fast-curing adhesive) is used to hold together a light emitting device and a light receiving device (fig. 2, col. 2, line 64 – col. 3, line 2).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the resin of Mueller as the adhesive leveling film in the device of Ovshinsky et al. One would have been motivated to do this because resin was a well known adhesive used in optoelectronic devices that would have improved the device quality by providing a firm joint between elements and reduced process time by quickly curing (Mueller, col. 2, line 64 – col. 3, line 2).

b. Regarding claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 16-19, Ovshinsky et al. in view of Mueller discloses all of the elements of the claims as discussed above including an insulating film between the semiconductor elements, but does not explicitly teach the insulating film to be a metal oxide. Mueller teaches a stacked optoelectronic coupling element wherein a metal oxide is formed between the stacked elements (fig. 2, 3; col. 3, lines 15-17).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the metal oxide of Mueller as the

insulating film in the optoelectronic device of Ovshinsky et al. One would have been motivated to do this because metal oxides were well known insulating materials used in optoelectronic devices due to their excellent insulation properties and their transparency (Mueller, col. 3, lines 15-17), which would allow the device to perform its intended function by propagating the optical signal within the device.

c. Regarding claims 11-15, Ovshinsky et al. in view of Mueller discloses all of the elements of the claims as discussed above including using the semiconductor device in a computer or central processing unit (Ovshinsky et al., col. 4, lines 32-38), but does not explicitly teach using the device in a mobile phone, electronic book, electronic card or watch card.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use an optoelectronic coupling semiconductor device in a mobile phone, electronic book, electronic card, or watch card. One would have been motivated to do this because all of the devices listed are well known examples of devices that require a central processing unit and relay switches to operate, and using an optoelectronic switching device instead of an electrical relay would have increased the device performance by providing a smaller size, longer life, higher switching rate and faster response time (Mueller, col. 1, lines 21-25).

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments, filed December 29, 2005, with respect to the rejections of claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and claims 11-15 under 35 U.S.C.

103(a) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Ovshinsky et al. '471 in view of Mueller '625 as described above.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

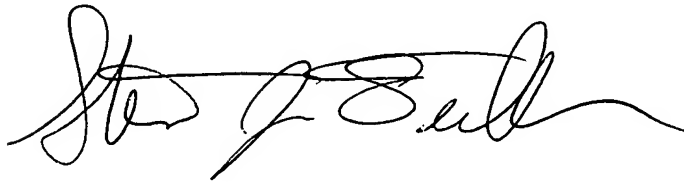
Kohashi '056, Thillays '877, Miyoshi et al. '821, Stein '695, Yasumoto et al. '083, Lebby et al. '245, Vu et al. '953, Hayashi et al. '699, Spaeth et al. '559, and Haas et al. '214 disclose stacked optoelectronic coupling devices.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven J. Fulk whose telephone number is (571) 272-8323. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 9:00am to 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bill Baumeister can be reached on (571) 272-1722. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2891

6. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steven J. Fulk', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Steven J. Fulk
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2891

February 9, 2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bradley K. Smith', with a large, stylized 'B' and 'S'.

BRADLEY K. SMITH
PRIMARY EXAMINER